

TESTIMONY BEFORE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD KOSINKSI
EDUCATION ARBITRATION BOARD

GOOD DAY, SENATOR DUFF, REPRESENTATIVE JANOWSKI, SENATOR KANE, REPRESENTATIVE BUCK-TAYLOR AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS RICHARD H. KOSINSKI AND IT IS AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE APPOINTED TO THE EDUCATION ARBITRATION PANEL BY GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY. MY SINCERE THANKS TO THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO SPEAK TO MY DESIRE TO SERVE AS AN MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION ARBITRATION PANEL.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN NEW BRITAIN, WHERE I BECAME A LONG DISTANCE RUNNER, DESPITE WHAT I LOOK LIKE NOW. TEAMS I WAS ON WON NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK. EVENTUALLY, I MARRIED A WONDERFUL WOMAN, ELISETE V. KOSINSKI, AND WE NOW LIVE IN OXFORD BY A BEAUTIFUL LAKE. THERE, I DO A GREAT DEAL OF WALKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

I AM A CUM LAUDE GRADUATE OF UCONN AND WAS INDUCTED THERE INTO PHI BETA KAPPA. HAVING RECEIVED A J.D. DEGREE AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, I RECEIVED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LABOR LAW AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. AS AN ARMY JAG OFFICER, I FIRST WORKED AS A PROSECUTOR AND THEN BEGAN MY ADJUDICATION CAREER AS A FOREIGN CLAIMS COMMISSIONER IN VIETNAM, WHERE I RECEIVED THE BRONZE STAR. LATER, I WORKED AT THE PENTAGON AS AN ASSISTANT LABOR ADVISOR IN THE OFFICE OF THE LABOR ADVISOR TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS). MY JOB THERE WAS TO MONITOR STRIKES AND HOW THEY COULD AFFECT THE WAR EFFORT. IRONICALLY, ONE STRIKE I WATCHED WAS AT THEN FAFNIR BEARING CO. IN MY THEN HOME TOWN OF NEW BRITAIN. IN THAT CAPACITY, I DEALT WITH FEDERAL MEDIATORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND LATER BECAME A COMMISSIONER OF MEDIATION.

I RETURNED TO MY THEN HOME TOWN TO PRACTICE LAW, CONCENTRATING ON THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP. AT ECSU AND THE LABOR STUDIES PROGRAM AT UCONN, I SERVED AS AN ADJUNCT LECTURER IN LABOR RELATIONS. I HAVE SERVED AS CHAIR OF THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION. ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION ARE MY AVOCATIONS AND I HAVE SERVED IN THOSE FIELDS FOR OVER 40 YEARS. GOVERNOR WEICKER FIRST APPOINTED ME TO THE EDUCATION ARBITRATION PANEL IN 1991 AND I HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF SERVING CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THEN. FOR OVER 10 YEARS I HAVE ALSO SIMILARLY SERVED ON THE PANEL OF NEUTRAL ARBITRATORS UNDER THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT. SINCE THE EARLY '80S, I HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE POLISH COMMUNITY, HAVING SERVED AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF POLISH AMERICANS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, PRESIDENT OF SOLIDARITY

INTERNATIONAL OF CONNECTICUT AND, MOST RECENTLY, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT.

I WOULD BE HONORED TO CONTINUE MY SERVICE AS A NEUTRAL ARBITRATOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL. IN OUR PRESENT ECONOMIC TIMES, TOUGH DECISIONS MUST BE MADE IN BREAD AND BUTTER MATTERS OF SALARIES, HEALTH INSURANCE, PENSIONS AND OTHER ISSUES.

I APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION AND WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE FOR ME. THANK YOU.